THE MARYLAND YELLOWTHROAT

A Publication of the Maryland Ornithological Society, Inc.

VOL. 10, NO. 1 JANUARY/FEBRUARY, 1990

Sanctuary Committee Report

Irish Grove Workday: A very successful workday was held at Irish Grove Sanctuary on November 4, 1989. There were thirty-two participants from eight chapters as follows: Anne Arundel (8), Baltimore (6), Carroll (1), Kent (2), Patuxent (1), Talbot (1), Washington (2), Wicomico (10) and one member-at-large.

Several projects were accomplished. About one-half mile of the North Trail was marked across the marsh. There were three bridges and one plank crossing built to span "guts" along this trail. Additional railing and a bench were installed on the new Canal Trail Tower. The tool shed had its roof replaced and the banding station was cleaned out. There was a good bit of pruning and mowing done. In the house, in addition to the usual house cleaning, a new light fixture was installed in the living room, another floor lamp was added and the carpet sweeper attachment for the vacuum cleaner was repaired.

Ruth Denit again provided two big turkeys for the workcrew mid-day meal. Wicomico Chapter assisted with the trimmings. The sixteen people who spent the night at Irish Grove enjoyed the left over turkey both that night and the next day. The overnighters also enjoyed watching a slide show presented by Jim Stasz.

The weather was cooperative and stayed nice for the weekend and there was ample opportunity to enjoy the bird life of the Sanctuary and Rumbly Point Road.

I want to thank one and all who helped to make this such a successful workday.

Spring Workdays: Be sure to put on your calendar the dates for our two spring workdays: Irish Grove on April 7, 1990 and Carey Run on April 28, 1990.

Another New Sanctuary: A fifty acre parcel in Talbot County, called the Marengo Woodlot, is being offered as a donation to the MOS. The deed transfer should be completed before the end of the 1989 year. There are no plans to do any trail construction or anything else that would require maintenance in the Marengo Woodlot. Its primary function will be to keep the land out of the hands of developers.

Tum Suden: A decision on the future use of tum Suden has been postponed for the time being. The situation for the present is that the Atlas Coordinator will be living there until September 1990.

Reservations: Please remember that you are required to have reservations to stay overnight at either Carey Run or Irish Grove. For reservations to Carey Run contact: Dan and Charlotte Folk, 179 Mount Pleasant St., Frostburg, MD 21532; telephone: (301) 689-6587. For reservation to Irish Grove contact: Carol Broderick, 53 Devonshire Dr., Salisbury, MD 21801; telephone: (301) 742-8920.

Dotty Mumford
Sanctuary Committee Chairman

DNR Reports ...

It is estimated that one to three species go extinct somewhere in the world everyday. Much of this is occurring in the tropics, though some is happening on this continent and some possibly here in Maryland.

To help diminish the possibility of extinction, species are listed as endangered or threatened and given additional protection to keep their populations from disappearing. In addition to protection, appropriate recovery efforts are implemented to bolster the species. The Peregrine Falcon and Delmarva Fox Squirrel are two endangered species whose populations are rebounding in Maryland as a result of these efforts.

The federal government lists species in danger of becoming extinct in our country. Maryland law allows us to list species whose continued existence as a viable component of our ecosystem is in jeopardy. This means we can list species as endangered in Maryland regardless of their status elsewhere. Thus, a species whose population has declined drastically in Maryland but not necessarily throughout its range, such as the Black Skimmer, can receive additional protection.

In 1987, DNR updated our endangered species list to include 187 species of plants and animals. Much of the emphasis then were on Bay related species. We are now in the process of revising the list again to include species throughout Maryland. A number of birds are being considered for listing and we are soliciting comments at this time.

In Maryland, a species can be listed in one of three categories, namely: (1) endangered, (2) threatened, or (3) in need of conservation. All three categories receive similar protection, with the designations based on the probability of extirpation or extinction from the state.

The birds being considered for listing include: Pied-billed Grebe, Hooded Merganser, Sora, Northern Goshawk, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Northern Harrier, Upland Sandpiper, Wilson's Plover, Royal Tern, Gull-billed Tern, Laughing Gull, Saw-whet Owl, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Alder Flycatcher, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Winter Wren, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Swainson's Thrush, Nashville Warbler, Mourning Warbler, Black-

(continued on page 2, column 2)

Patuxent Chapter Saves Tropical Rainforest

The Patuxent Chapter of MOS has financed the purchase of one square mile of tropical rainforest at Sierra de las Minas in Guatemala. Their $2,553 raised in small contributions, was sent to the World Parks Endowment, 1400 16th St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036, which is organizing United States fund-raising efforts for this project, as well as others to buy and endow similarly critical land for the conservation of biological diversity. Funds will be used in Guatemala to buy land at $4.00 per acre! Because of the shared concern among residents of the United States for the conservation of rainforests, a listing of other World Parks Endowment projects is detailed below. Perhaps other chapters or individuals would be interested in helping.

The World Parks Endowment received status as a non-profit entity able to receive tax-deductible gifts in May, 1989. Since then, groups in developing countries have contacted us about the following conservation opportunities.

OPPORTUNITY: The Gola Forest is the westernmost tract of old-growth tropical forest in West Africa. It represents the last 3% of old forest in Sierra Leone, once 80% forested. The Conservation Society of Sierra Leone fears that the government will soon be forced to sell off what is left at bargain basement prices in order to meet it's financial needs - and the world stands to lose a unique habitat. Endowment funds are urgently needed to help prevent this, and save the Gola.

OPPORTUNITY: In the small Caribbean nation of Belize, famous for its coral reefs and jungles, the government is seeking help to establish two new parks in these areas. Endowment funds of as little as $200,000 to support their management and protection would allow the government to establish both areas for posterity. Private conservation groups in Belize are urging us to pitch in and help save the land while there is still time to do so.

OPPORTUNITY: Guardians of the Monteverde Cloud-Forest, in Costa Rica, are buying rain forest land to add to the protected Reserve at a price of only $50

(continued on page 2, column 3)

MOS Scholarships Available

The Scholarship Committee is now soliciting applications for six educational scholarships. Three of these scholarships are for study at an Audubon Summer Ecology Camp and three for training in Ornithology.

The Audubon Summer Ecology Camps generally run two weeks and are repeated throughout the summer at the Camps in Maine, Connecticut and Wyoming. The winning candidates can attend at a time and place of their choice. The scholarships for training in Ornithology send winning candidates to a one week ornithology workshop given by the Audubon Society at the Maine Audubon Camp.

Applicants for all scholarships must be at least eighteen years old, must be residents of Maryland or work in Maryland. They do not have to be members of MOS. The intent is to train people who are in positions or in activities in which they can pass on what they have learned to others.

Applicants should write a personal letter stating their qualifications and reasons for wanting the scholarship. They should also secure two or more letters of recommendation from MOS members or other individuals who know of their interests and activities. These letters should be sent to the local chapter president and then forwarded to the Chairman, MOS Scholarship Committee. Candidates must indicate whether they are primarily interested in a scholarship to an Audubon Ecology Workshop or in a scholarship providing training in Ornithology.

Winning candidates will be chosen by the Scholarship Committee. All candidates and their chapters will be notified of the results in March. There is a deadline of February 5th for all letters of recommendation and application to reach the committee. If extension of time is required, please contact your chapter president.

Mildred Gebhard, Chm.
MOS Scholarship
Committee

DNR Reports...

(continued from page 1, column 2)

burnian Warbler, and Dark-eyed Junco.

Certain species such as the Upland Sandpiper and Wilson's Plover will no doubt be listed as endangered. Others will most likely be listed as threatened, such as Gull-billed Tern. Many of these candidates may be listed threatened or endangered for breeding populations only, such as the Garrett County rarities, Hooded Merganser, and Northern Harrier. If listed for breeding populations only, no special protection would be provided to wintering or migrating populations. Some of these candidates will be listed as in need of conservation because they are borderline as far as their status.

If you would like to comment on any of these candidate species, please write to my office: Maryland Forest, Park & Wildlife Service, P.O. Box 68, Wye Mills, MD 21679 as soon as possible.

Glenn Therres

Unanswered Questions

Using data from Christmas Counts and other sources, is it possible to confirm and trace the decline of wintering Tree Sparrows in Maryland? The evidence seems to suggest that this species has been declining for about twenty or thirty years. Is the decline real? Has it been a slow, steady reduction, or did it happen more quickly?

Conversations with Barb Haas of *Pennsylvania Birds* indicate that Tree Sparrows are also declining there. Several Virginia birders argue that it also disappearing there.

The big question that such a decline raises is, what is the cause? Habitat loss? Fewer breeding birds? Reduced observer effort? Those questions are probably unanswerable right now, but we cannot even begin until we have documented the decline. We need to know when it started, and how rapidly it progressed before attempting to correlate it with environmental factors.

Rick Blom

Patuxent Chapter...

(continued from page 1, column 3)

an acre. Unless protected now, the unique flora and fauna of the Reserve—the Resplendent Quetzal, the Wattled Bellbird, and many, many other species—will no longer have a home. $50 will achieve perpetual protection of an acre of rich rainforest—an exceptional investment, especially as what is not bought will almost certainly be cut and burned within the next three to four years.

OPPORTUNITY: In the island nation of St. Lucia, in the Caribbean, Chief Forester Gabriel Charles has told us of the need to conserve 100 acres of tall forest, which is up for sale. The forest is next to the island's Forest Reserve, and is critical habitat for the highly endangered St. Lucia parrot. If the forest land is not purchased quickly, it will be logged, pushing the St. Lucia parrot closer to extinction.

OPPORTUNITY: The forests of the Sierra de las Minas has been identified to have the highest biodiversity of any single site in Guatemala. It has been proposed by the Government as a protected area. Defensores de la Naturaleza, a conservation group in Guatemala, is organizing a protection program, but immediately needs $44,240 to purchase a 11,000 acre tract of land within the proposed reserve, now offered for sale.

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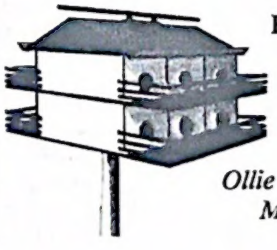

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MOS Records Committee Status Report

Status of Records Under Review Various records have been listed in previous issues of *The Maryland Yellowthroat* as being under review by the Records Committee.

The following records have been accepted:

Eared Grebe—Back River, Baltimore Co., 16 January 1984; Hart-Miller Island, Baltimore Co., 30 August 1987.

Western Grebe—Loch Raven Reservoir, Baltimore Co., 16 December 1984-06 January 1985.

Fregata sp—Assateague Island, Worcester Co., 30 April 1984. (An all black male was described, which fits Great, Magnificent, and Ascension Frigatebirds; MOSRC was unable to determine which species was seen.)

Long-billed Curlew—Brandywine, Prince Georges Co., 30 August-12 September 1987.

Baird's Sandpiper—Hart-Miller Island, Baltimore Co., 10 December 1983.

Ruff—Blackwater NWR, Dorchester Co., 16-17 April 1982.

Franklin's Gull—Sandy Point State Park, Anne Arundel Co., 01 July 1987.

Little Gull—Conowingo Dam, Harford Co., 06 December 1987.

California Gull—Sandy Point State Park, Anne Arundel Co., 11 July 1984 and 14 August 1984.

Sabine's Gull—Atlantic Ocean east of Ocean City, 09 May 1976.

Sandwich Tern—Pt. Lookout, St. Marys Co., 31 August 1983.

Sandhill Crane—Pinto Marsh, Allegany Co., 26 April 1984; Little Bennett Reg. Park, Montgomery Co., 02 May 1987.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher—Antietam Battlefield Natl. Park, Washington Co., 03-18 October 1987.

Brewer's Blackbird—Back River Sewage Plant, Baltimore Co., 08 December 1979.

Swainson's Warbler—Phoenix, Baltimore Co., 03 May-12 July 1987.

The following records have not been accepted:

Wood Stork—Barnesville, Montgomery Co., 28 August 1987.

Mississippi Kite—Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Prince Georges Co., 03 June 1987; Lanham, Prince Georges Co., 27 June 1987.

Caribbean Coot—Hughes Hollow, Montgomery Co., 11 May 1984.

Mew Gull—Back River Sewage Plant, Baltimore Co., 16 December 1979.

Bell's Vireo—Assateague Island, Worcester Co., 08 September 1956.

The following records are currently under review by the committee:

Great Cormorant—Conowingo Dam, Harford Co., 29 January 1989.

Anhinga—Big Mill Pond, Worcester Co., 22 May 1988.

White Ibis—Blackwater NWR, Dorchester Co., 07-28 March 1988.

Little Stint—Hart-Miller Island, Baltimore Co., 20 September 1987.

Ruff—Lilypons, Frederick Co., 17 April 1988.

Common Black-headed Gull—Conowingo Dam, Cecil & Harford Co., 06-09 December 1987.

Black-legged Kittiwake—Bellvue, Talbot Co., 09 October 1988.

Red-cockaded Woodpecker—Pt. Lookout State Park, St. Marys Co., 22 June 1984.

Hammond's Flycatcher—Ocean City, Worcester Co., 09 October 1963.

Indigo Bunting—Whaleysville, Wicomico Co., 29 January 1989.

Committee members for 1989-90 are: Bob Augustine, Roger Clapp, Dave Czaplak, Harvey Mudd, Paul O'Brien, Chan Robbins, Hal Wierenga, and Claudia Wilds.

Erika Wilson
Secretary

Mini Lecture

Weaver Finch

The term weaver finch is the standard English name given to 70 members of the family Ploceidae. Although taxonomists differ as to what birds belong to this family, waxbills, grass finches, mannikins, and whydahs are usually grouped into this category. When one looks at the family as a whole, many members are attractive, highly colored, and build large, unusual nests. From the North American perspective, weaver finches bring to mind the two introduced species to the New World, the Eurasian Tree Sparrow and the House or English Sparrow.

The House Sparrow was introduced in the northeastern U.S. in order to curb the growing populations of the spring canker-worm and the elm spanworm. This introduction, which took place in the 1850's and 1860's, did help to reduce the moth populations but also caused two other events to occur. The House Sparrow displaced many native hole nesting bird species, i.e. House Wren, Purple Martin, and Cliff Swallows and became a pernicious destroyer of grain and fruit crops. The House Sparrow has become an urban wild bird, eating the detritus of city streets and bird feeders. While, to its credit, the House Sparrow does eat a number of insect pests, it fails to check the progress of other insect pests previously handled by our native bird species. As urbanization has increased, the House Sparrow has come to prefer the niches of human habitation for nest building and uses material indiscriminately to build a nest in which 3-5 variably marked white to pale green eggs are laid.

The Eurasian Tree Sparrow has not accepted urbanization like the House Sparrow and has kept its tree cavity nesting habit and rural life style. It currently is a local resident of eastern Missouri and neighboring Illinois.

While the optimistic bird watcher may point out the beauty of the markings of the male House Sparrow and the need not to travel overseas to add a bird on one's bird life list, the introduction of bird species rarely works. Introduced animals rarely solve the problem that they were originally introduced for, usually become a pest themselves, disrupt the ecological balance of the area, and compete with native species. Our natural heritage is a fragile one, interwoven with other plants and animals to produce nature as we know it today. A disruption of nature usually results in a loss, for mankind, of a valuable part of this web of life.

Joseph M. Lewandowski

Birding In Spain

Spain offers several enticements to the north American who wishes to bird and travel in western Europe. First, Madrid has a relatively manageable airport and Madrid itself is a somewhat more manageable city than certain other western European capitals. Second, there are three airlines that fly non-stop between New York and Madrid. Third, there is a relatively large number of birds in Spain and also a number of species not easily seen elsewhere in western Europe.

We chose to go in late June, not because of factors in Spain, but because of job commitments here. We knew that heat would be a problem at that time of year, especially since we would be in the south of Spain. Yes, the heat was bothersome and at times close to intolerable. I would not recommend any later than this for birding in southern Spain. Nevertheless, the birding seemed good despite a somewhat poor time choice on our part.

Two publications were very helpful in the planning of the trip. One was *Wild Spain, A Traveller's and Naturalist's Handbook* (Ebury Press, London). The other was *Where to Watch Birds in Britain and Europe* by John Gooders. The former is available in travel-oriented bookstores in this country. I only had photo-copied portions of the latter so I know nothing of its availability here. Michelin maps of Spain were invaluable and I highly recommend them. The ABA list of birds of Spain and Portugal was also helpful.

We rented a car in Madrid and spent the next 14 days covering a circuitous route through the south that eventually returned us to Madrid. We had no hotel reservations which was wonderful as this allowed us to make many changes in the itinerary drawn up in the United States. I will now describe each day in a diary-like fashion.

June 19—Our first day on the road. It was nice to be out of the city and finally getting to see the country. We got on Route 501 east of Madrid and followed it all day to Placencia-I didn't know what this sort of road (a "yellow" road on the Michelin map) would be like but it turned out to be an excellent road with much scenery and few trucks. There were many red and black kites. We heard cuckoos giving their "cuckoo-clock" call just before a thunderstorm. This was a "first" for all of us. We arrived very tired at Placencia and I asked for a hotel with moderate prices. The response was a consistent "Barmy-casa." This didn't make any sense, but I finally looked up and saw "Bar Mi Casa" which was our hotel for the night. We had to carry our suitcases through the alleys to get there. We still had a lot to learn about hotels.

June 20—Placencia is the gateway to the small but fruitful Monfraqüe Park. We spent a lot of time there and saw our only black stork of the trip. Eagles were strangely missing. Late in the day we arrived in Oneida, home of impressive Roman ruins. Amazingly there seemed to be only about 2 good restaurants in this large city, and the one we chose didn't seem to be the better of the two. And dining so late! Things had better improve.

June 21—Several Little Owls this morning south of Zafra! We got a life bird when Ellie figured out the Kestrel in Zafra was a Least Kestrel. We hadn't exactly studied assiduously our bird books! We made reservations for the "jeep" ride in Donaña Park and then came to Matalascañas for the night. I'm not much of a swimmer but the ocean and beach there were beautiful and the gentle surf felt wonderful after many hot kilometers in the car. If you stay in the Hotel Tierra y Mar be prepared to mix with lots of Germans.

June 22—We went out into Donaña Park in landrovers. Our group had somewhat mixed opinions of the experience. I thought it was long, bumpy, and a big waste of time. The guide spoke very fast Spanish and should've been more considerate of his barely fluent audience. We worked the fringes of the Park from our car the rest of the day as access to the Park remained elusive. There are wonderful birds such as Squaco Heron, Pratincole, and Imperial Eagle but how does one see them? Another night of German food served at German hours. The Germans even asked who we were.

June 23—With patience, saw a Purple Gallinule this morning from the "hides" at Lake Acebuchs of Donaña. We elected not to stop in Sevilla and passed right through. Temperatures close to 35°C (you figure it out), bad city traffic, fear of crime, and the pleasures of the country make the decision easy. We got on a super highway only to be met by an unpleasant toll of $5.00. Be careful of that in Spain. Laguna Medina produced our only flamingos of the trip. The towns around Barbate were beautiful white hilltop cities and Barbate itself was handsome. We stayed in a hostel which was pleasant but a little noisy. Picadillo soup was rising steadily on my culinary score card. We took the ferry over to central Africa from Algeciras. I wouldn't do it again.

June 24—We took the ferry back. The customs line was indescribable, the only birds seen from the boat were Marix Shearwater. Birding in the Tarifa area would probably be more productive than the boat trip. We stayed in another hostel and enjoyed our usual sangria, gazpacho and sopa picadillo. We missed on our first attempt to see White-rumped Swift.

June 25—Gibraltar was our next stop. My impression was of a shabby outpost unworthy of Great Britain - a definite "can miss" place in my opinion. It was nice to get back into Spain. We followed "white" roads on the Michelin map (the lowest level of paved road) and found them wonderful with little traffic. Speed was never necessary on a birding trip. We passed through much cork forest and more picturesque white towns of Andalusia. The birds were scarce and the heat intense so we quit early in Ubriche.

June 26—We had breakfast in El Bosque which has a very nice hostel, nicer than the one in Ubriche. Then we spent the morning in Grazalema Park. Birding was good here and we couldn't give it the time it deserved. We saw our only Chough and Cirl Bunting in this area and finally got good looks at Sardinian Warbler. Just out of Ronda we visited Pileta Cave and at the cave mouth saw Rock Bunting and Blue Rock Thrush. Spent the night in the "touristy" town of Ronda and failed in final attempt for White-rumped Swift.

June 27—East of Ronda we discovered a canyon totally without use of any guidebook and had Alpine Swift and Black Wheatear. Aren't these always the best birds? Conversely, our next stop at the highly touted Laguna del Fuente de Piedra was totally futile due to drought. We visited some small lakes supervised by ICONA (a Spanish conservation group) and the manager invited us to visit an olive mill. My "command" of Spanish was yielding some curious fringe benefits. We saw our only Bush Chat of the trip in olive groves of this area. We drove through Cordoba without stopping and stayed at a hostel which looked like a truck stop. This hostel, which would make nobody's tourist book, had everything we wanted -easy parking right by the room, no worries about crime, delicious dinner served early, and a quiet room which looked out over a pine woods. We were really learning about hotels.

June 28—We had our only Little Bustard of the trip this morning in a hayfield north of Cordoba. They probably aren't that difficult, rather, we probably weren't looking for them correctly. We stopped in two towns which refused to cash American Express Traveler's cheques. Thank goodness for VISA. We spent another night at a "truck stop" hostel and again had easy safe parking.

June 29—On this varied day we started at the Tablas de Daimel., a marsh area where we had a fairly good look at a Bearded Tit and our only Purple Heron and Marsh Harrier. Green Woodpecker and Linnet were around the refuge buildings. Then we walked around the scenic but totally non-commercialized "Don Quixote" windmill area of Consequa, spent one last try for Kingfisher, and passed through the gates of the walled city of Toledo for the night.

June 30—We acted like normal tourists this morning and saw Toledo. Again it was nice to be out of the city as we drove north. We had a little extra time and spent our last night in the country in one of the "gems" of the trip, the mountain

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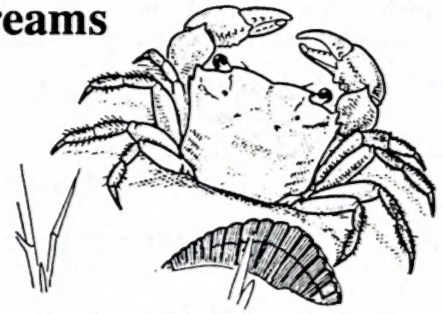
Chesapeake Daydreams



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The Maryland Breeding Bird Atlas Committee is soliciting contributions for the publication of the Atlas book, scheduled to be completed by the 1991 MOS Convention. In particular, anyone who contributes $100 or more will be listed in the book as a Patron. Take this opportunity to be permanently recorded as a financial contributor to the Atlas project. Checks should be sent to John Cullom, 437 S. Paradise Ave., Baltimore, MD 21228. The University of Pittsburgh Press has been officially selected as the publisher and work is steadily progressing.

New Maryland Check-List Announced

Norm and Fran Saunders have announced the release of a new check-list of the birds of Maryland. The check-list shows, for each of Maryland's 23 counties, those species from the official state list which have been sighted in that locale. Also included is a list of the birds of the District of Columbia.

The 58-page list, arranged for easy record-keeping at the county level of detail, was compiled over an eighteen month period with the assistance of many many of the premier birders of Maryland and the District. The Saunders will continue to maintain the list and release updates on approximately 3-5 year intervals.

See their ad elsewhere in this issue for ordering information.

Birding in Spain

(continued from page 4, column 3)

"pueblo" of Rascafira in the Sierra Guadarrama north of Madrid. We saw our only Booted Eagle here. Eagles were difficult to find the whole trip.

July 1—Rascafira was pleasantly cool and delightfully green and it was difficult to return to Madrid. We scared up a possible Hobby from the most rat-infested landfill I've seen. The rocky slopes above Rascafira had Black-eared Wheatear as well as more Rock Bunting and Blue Rock Thrush. The "rock" birds of Spain turned out to be one of the more interesting ornithological features.

July 2—Two of our group remained behind for two more days while Ellie and I boarded the Iberia flight for New York. Spain gave us much to think about as the Atlantic passed beneath us. We had learned a lot about hotels, food, and local customs. Many surprises, some unpleasant but most pleasant await the birder in Spain. ¡Buen Viaje!

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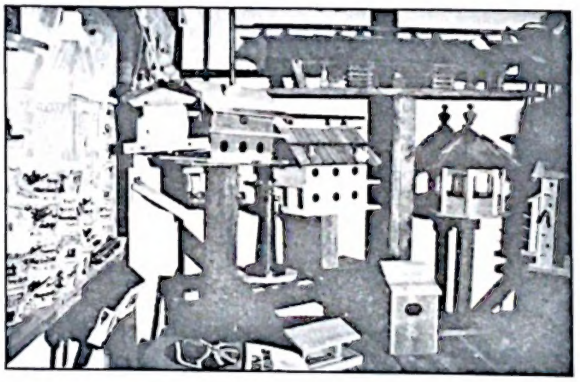

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MOS Calendar February/March 1990

Thursday, February 1

MEETING. Frederick. "Bluebirds in a Development," by Ren Frame. 7:30 p.m. Music Room of Frederick High School, Frederick, MD.

Friday, February 2

MEETING. Anne Arundel. "Ticking & Twitching in England & Scotland," by Larry & Jean Fry. Host/hostesses: Barbara & Boyd Madary, Betty Gruehn. 8 p.m. at the Annapolis Branch of the Anne Arundel County Library, 1410 West St., Annapolis, MD.

Saturday, February 3

WINTER BIRD COUNT. Allegany. The compiler is Teresa Simons, 729-4161.

FIELD TRIP. Anne Arundel. Greenberry Point, Anne Arundel Co. Waterfowl and winter residents. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Annapolis Mall Park & Ride lot off Jennifer Street. The leaders are Al Haury, 757-3523, and John Symonds, 267-6574.

SEED SALE. Howard. Pickup day for the winter seed sale. For information or orders, call Eileen Clegg at 730-4362.

Tuesday, February 6

MEETING. Baltimore. "Maryland Colonial Waterbirds—Their Current Status," by Dave Brinker. 7:30 p.m., Cylburn Mansion, 4915 Greenspring Avenue.

Thursday, February 8

MEETING. Howard. "Identifying the Little Brown Birds," by David Holmes. 7:30 p.m. at Longfellow Elementary School in Columbia.

MEETING. Montgomery. "Barn Owls of Maryland," by Glenn Therres. 8:00 p.m. at the Potomac Presbyterian Church.

MEETING. Talbot. "Birding in South America," by Dr. Robert Trevor. 7:30 p.m. at the Loyola Federal Savings Bank, Harrison & Goldsborough Sts., Easton, MD.

Saturday, February 10

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Ocean City & Assateague. Winter waterfowl, winter gulls, oystercatcher, brant, purple sandpipers probable. Horned lark and horned grebe. Meet 10 a.m. at the Ocean City Inlet parking lot, near the jetty. The leader is Dave Brinker, 744-3246.

FIELD TRIP. Frederick. Conowingo Dam. A good spot for wintering gulls and bald eagle in Harford County. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Culler Lake Boat House, W. Second St., Frederick.

Friday, February 16

MEETING. Caroline. "Wetlands: An Environmental Issue," by Nick Carter. 7:30 p.m., Caroline County Public Library, Denton.

Saturday-Monday, February 17-19

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Presidents' Birthday Coastal Trip. Covering the Delmarva Peninsula, from the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel north to Chincoteague, Ocean City, and the Delaware coastal refuges. Joint trip with ANS. Contact the leader, Paul Dumont, at 931-8994 for details. Limited space, 3 days.

FIELD TRIP. Anne Arundel. 18th Annual Winter Weekend. Winter birding along the Atlantic Coast from Delaware to Chincoteague. Come for one, two, or all three days. Reservations are required by February 16. Call the leader, Jim Cheevers, 224-2061, for reservations and further information.

Saturday, February 17

FIELD TRIP. Howard. Sandy Point State Park. Meet at 9 a.m. at Grempler Realty in Columbia. Bring a snack and a hot beverage and dress warmly. The leader is Karen Skuldt, 788-6079.

FIELD TRIP. Wicomico. Owls. The leader is Dave Weesner, 749-0829.

Wednesday, February 21

MEETING. Jug Bay. "Shangrila in Nepal—A Trek To The Summit," by Dr. Douglas Gill, Zoologist, University of Maryland. 7:00 p.m., Patuxent River Park.

Saturday, February 24

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Cape Henlopen to Ocean City. Snow buntings, red-throated loons, great cormorants. Possible eiders, harlequin duck. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at radar tower parking lot at point, Cape Henlopen State Park. The leader is Henry Bielstein, 292-9592.

FIELD TRIP. Howard. Feeder Walk in Columbia. Meet at 1 p.m. at Grempler Realty. The leader is Michele Wright, 465-6057.

FIELD TRIP. Washington. Winter Waterfowl. Meet 7 a.m. at the Park & Ride at MD Rt. 65 & I-70, next to McDonalds. The leader is Bob Keedy, 733-7708.

Sunday, February 25

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Baltimore Harbor. Meet 8 a.m. at Harbor Hospital Center's south parking lot (off Hanover St., s. of the bridge). Wintering ducks, gulls, lesser black-backed gull. The leader is Michael Kraynick, 437-7554.

Monday, February 26

MEETING. Wicomico. "Shorebird Watching," by Charlie Vaughn.

Tuesday, February 27

MEETING. Washington. We will prepare for the spring influx of bluebirds and purple martins with videotapes of appropriate housing for them. 7:30 p.m. at Funkstown Elementary School, Funkstown School Rd.

Thursday, March 1

MEETING. Frederick. "Elementary Bird Identification—Field Guide & Binocular Use," by Elinor Miller. 7:30 p.m. Music Room of Frederick High School, Frederick, MD.

Friday, March 2

MEETING. Anne Arundel. "Birding in Spain," by Stauffer & Elinor Miller. Hosts/hostesses: Ty Tydings, Nicholas & Ava Cresanta. 8 p.m. at the Annapolis Branch of the Anne Arundel County Library, 1410 West St., Annapolis, MD.

MEETING. Baltimore. "Endangered Maryland Birds," by Glenn Therres. Annual business meeting. 8 p.m., Oregon Ridge Nature Center.

Saturday, March 3

FIELD TRIP. Howard. Waterfowl on Columbia Lakes. Meet at 1 p.m. at Grempler Realty in Columbia. The leaders are Mike & Grazina McClure, 531-2780.

FIELD TRIP. Wicomico. Ocean City. All-day trip. The leaders are Hugh & Sally Hanson, 742-2901.

Sunday, March 4

FIELD TRIP. Anne Arundel. Accokeek—Alice Ferguson Foundation, Prince Georges Co. A tour with Chris Swarth along the Potomac River where rafts of waterfowl may be seen. Full day, bring lunch. Meet at 10:00 a.m. at the Annapolis Mall Park & Ride lot off Jennifer Street. The coordinator is Sue Ricciardi, 647-9513.

Thursday, March 8

MEETING. Howard. "An Alaska Birding Trip," by Robert Ringler. 7:30 p.m. at Longfellow Elementary School, Columbia.

MEETING. Montgomery. Program TBA. 8:00 p.m. at the Potomac Presbyterian Church.

MEETING. Talbot. "Wilderness and Wildlife," photography exhibit by Richard Webster. 7:30 p.m. at the Loyola Federal Savings Bank, Harrison & Goldsborough Sts., Easton, MD.

Saturday, March 10

FIELD TRIP. Anne Arundel. Remington Farms & Eastern Neck NWR, Kent Co. Waterfowl and bald eagles. Full day, bring lunch. Meet at 8 a.m. at the Annapolis Mall Park & Ride lot off Jennifer Street. The leader is Jim Cheevers, 224-2061.

FIELD TRIP. Frederick. Piney Run. This reservoir in Carroll County should have ducks and maybe a few loons this time of year. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Culler Lake Boat House, W. Second St., Frederick.

Tuesday, March 13

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Bird Identification Walk at the National Zoo. Study hard birds the easy way, up close with identification expert Claudia Wilds. The zoo has a large collection of birds from six continents, including such difficult species as trumpeter swan and Ross' goose. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the lower zoo parking lot, by the duck ponds. For further information, contact the leader, Claudia Wilds, at 202-333-5769.

MEETING. Kent. "Banding Herons," by Carol McCullough.

Wednesday, March 14

MEETING. Allegany. "Alaskan Natural History," by John Willetts. 7 p.m. at the Allegany Co. Health Dep't. Community Room.

Calendar *continued*

Friday, March 16

MEETING. Caroline. "Birding in Costa Rica," by David Holmes. 7:30 p.m., Caroline County Public Library, Denton.

Saturday, March 17

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Loch Raven. Waterfowl and land birds; possible fox sparrow, eastern bluebird, bald eagle. Telescopes recommended. Meet 8 a.m. at Timonium Park & Ride lot. The leader is Steve Simon, 628-1929.

FIELD TRIP. Washington. Fort Frederick/Big Pool. A walk for early spring migrants in river, pond, and forest. Meet 7:30 a.m. at the Park & Ride at MD Rt. 65 & I-70, next to McDonalds. The leaders are Betty & Ray McCoy, 739-9127.

Sunday, March 18

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Piney Run. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the entrance gate of this Carroll County park. Wintering and early spring migrant ducks, Canada geese, and land birds. Telescopes recommended. The leader is Burton Alexander, 381-5574.

Wednesday, March 21

MEETING. Jug Bay. "Audubon Ornithology Camp In Maine: A Scholarship-Winner's Perspective," by Lisa Bierer & Paula McNeil. 7:00 p.m., Patuxent River Park.

Saturday, March 24

FIELD TRIP. Allegany. Garrett County Ponds. Meet at Parkside School at 8 a.m.

Sunday, March 25

FIELD TRIP. Anne Arundel. Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary, Anne Arundel Co. Late waterfowl and early shorebirds. 1/2 day. Meet 7:30 a.m. at the Annapolis Mall Park & Ride lot off Jennifer Street. The leader is Chris Beaton, 849-8451.

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Columbia Lakes. Meet at 8 a.m. at Centennial Lake in Columbia. Joint trip with Howard County Bird Club. The coordinator is Pete Webb, 486-1217.

Monday, March 26

ANNUAL DINNER. Wicomico. Held at Wicomico Presbyterian Church at 6 p.m. Bring a covered dish large enough to serve eight people. The program will be "An Evening With John Dennis."

Tuesday, March 27

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Lake Roland. First in a series of nine Alice Kaestner Memorial Walks to follow the progress of spring migration at Lake Roland. Meet at 9 a.m. in Robert E. Lee Park. The leader is Adelaide Rackemann, 823-4709.

MEETING. Washington. "Wildflowers & Wildlife in Natural Areas of Western Maryland," by Dan Boone. 7:30 p.m. at Funkstown Elementary School, Funkstown School Rd.

Saturday, March 31

FIELD TRIP. Anne Arundel. Calvert County. Spring waterfowl and shorebirds and lots of wetlands. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Annapolis Mall Park & Ride lot off Jennifer Street. The leader is Jim Stasz, 257-9540.

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Back River. Early migrant land and shorebirds, singing pine warblers, Bonaparte's gulls; slight chance for little gull, long-eared owl, and black-headed gull. Meet 8 a.m. at visitor parking lot of Back River Waste Water Treatment Plant. The leader is Brent Byers, 686-7294.

FIELD TRIP. Wicomico. Salisbury & Wicomico County. All-day trip. The leader is Maureen McAllister, 742-5421.

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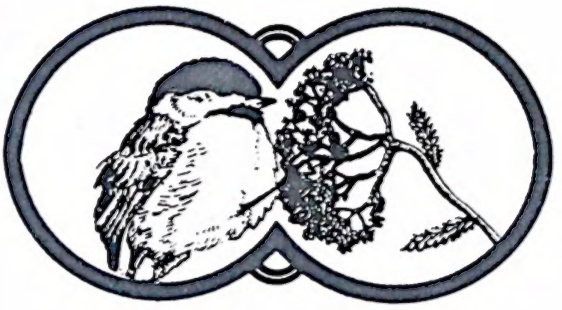

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